

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** each year, millions of Americans suffer the indignity of crime and, as a result, may experience emotional, physical, psychological, and financial harm as well as challenges in finding appropriate services; and

**WHEREAS,** victims of repeated victimization who fail to receive supportive services are at greater risk for long-term consequences of crime; and

**WHEREAS,** recognizing that intervening early with services that support and empower victims provides a pathway to recovery from crime and abuse, the victim services community has worked for decades to create a safe, supportive, and effective environment for victims; and

**WHEREAS,** honoring the rights of victims, including the right to be heard and treated with fairness, dignity, and respect, while working to meet their needs helps rebuild trust in the criminal justice and social service systems; and

**WHEREAS,** this year's theme, *Serving Victims. Building Trust. Restoring Hope.* serves as a reminder that receiving the appropriate services can help victims transition to a brighter future.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 17 - 23, 2016, as**

### **SOUTH CAROLINA VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to ensure that victims are afforded their legal rights and provided with assistance as they cope with the impact of crime while recognizing those individuals, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to assisting all victims of crime.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nikki R. Haley".

**NIKKI R. HALEY**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**